

Aboriginal Education School District No. 62



Our Vision, Mission, and Values

VISION—The Aboriginal Education Team, comprised of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, believe that through our actions today, our children will be proud to see their culture integrated and respected within schools, community and society. We believe they will become academically and socially successful, proud leaders in their communities.

MISSION—The Aboriginal Education Team commits to work for Aboriginal students in an accountable way in order to nurture, support, mentor and teach students to take pride in their culture, their history and their traditions..

VALUES—As an Aboriginal Education Team, we believe that personal integrity, honesty, respect and inclusiveness are essential to our work with students, parents, community members, teachers, administrators and each other.

January 2011

Fall & Winter

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Aboriginal Languages

Below are the three words for thank you for our three island nations:

Hych'ke -
Coast Salish

Kleco kleco -
Nuu-chah-nulth

Gilakasla -
Kwakwaka'
wakw

Kathleen King-Hunt, District Principal Aboriginal Education

This fall started out with a wonderful event. Aboriginal Education Department hosted the annual 'FAMILY FALL GATHERING' at Ruth King Elementary. The evening started out with a harvest basket of fruit prepared by the Greater Victoria Métis Nation. Families, students, teachers, principals, vice principals, school superintendent and assistant superintendents, trustees and community service providers joined the Aboriginal Education Department to welcome all back to a exciting school year!

The cultural component included a traditional welcome to the territory were are all visiting—Coast Salish! Chief Russell Chipps, Scia'new Nation welcomed us to the local territory. Elder Shirley Alphonse opened the event with traditional welcome speaking in the traditional languages. The Tzinquaw Dancers shared traditional dances with the audience. Since the event the Tzinquaw Dancers have visited many schools to continue sharing!

The evening continued with a contest 'best fall outfits' for different ages. Austin A. won best dressed child, Mr. H. Moon won best dressed adult male, and J. McDonald won best dressed adult female! The winner for the Aboriginal Education Department was Michelle Nahanee, Journey Middle School. Awesome school spirit enjoyed by

all! The 'Family Portrait Wall' was also a hit with many children taking family photos under the picture they drew of their family. Our community service providers shared key highlights to families about services they provide in the community:

Dale Simon—Westshore Rotary and B.E.A.R. program with SD 62 and Scia'new Nation

Kendra Gage, Hulitan Social Services Society—Amanda, Suzanne, Julia for 'Journeys of the Heart' at Ruth King

Pat Elkland, Métis Nation of Greater Victoria

Rachelle Dallaire, Caring for First Nations Children Society

Jodie McDonald, Sooke Literacy Project

Shantel Sheight, Westshore Literacy Co-ordinator

Constable Julie Chanin, Westshore RCMP

Daphne Raymond—Sooke/Westshore Child Care Resource and Referral Co-ordinator

Westshore Fire Department

Marcie Louie—Camosun College

Leslie McGarry—Victoria Native Friendship Centre

Bill Stewart -Dept of National Defence & Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group (DAAG)

A wealth of information was shared with the audience along with door prizes. Wow!

We also had an auction to fundraise for our graduation or year end recognition ceremony for graduating students. A heartfelt Hych'ke, Gilakasla, Kleco Kleco (thank-you) for the generous donations and individuals participating in the auction.

In addition, a big congrats to the committee and Aboriginal Education staff for a successful event!

The Aboriginal Education Department has had an extremely busy fall and we hope you enjoy school news in this newsletter!

The Aboriginal Education Council, A. E.C., meets regularly and provides regular news updates of key initiatives to the school board of trustees monthly!

This fall, I was able to present the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement to each schools' 'School Planning Council' at the inaugural Nov. 31st district meeting. Our four goals are; Sense of Belonging, Aboriginal Languages, Aboriginal Ways of Knowing, and Academic Achievement! It is great to see schools growing with initiatives and embracing the goals!

In our efforts to promote literacy please don't forget to fill out the 'coupon' form on the last page to win a set of family books!

Our Traditional Territories

School District Schools are located on two traditional territories:

- Coast Salish
- Nuw-chah-nulth

Our three local First Nations Bands

Pacheedaht Nation – Port Renfrew

T'Sou-ke Nation – Sooke

Scia'new Nation – Beecher Bay

'SD No. 62 On Reserve population is 14%' There are 889.5 Aboriginal students in our program this year!'

Métis Organizations

- Métis Nation of Greater Victoria
- Métis Community Service

'SD No. 62 has 252 Métis students in our schools!'

Our Staff

Aboriginal Education Teachers

Norma-Jean May – Belmont Secondary

Kathy Sudlow – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

Helen Wood – Spencer Middle

Patti Christianson – Journey Middle; Sooke Elementary schools

Tim May – Port Renfrew Elementary

Lorraine Erickson – Belmont Secondary

Jane Beswick – Elementary/Middle E.S.D.

Samantha Harvey – Elementary/Middle E.S.D.

Loni Skelton – First Nations Grad Program - Westshore Learning Centre

Lisa Stuart – Port Renfrew Elementary

Aboriginal Education Support Workers

Trish McNabb – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

Lynn Ferguson – Belmont Secondary

Karen Whetung – Pacific / Westshore Annex

Dennis Warbrick – Spencer Middle

Tania Fetherston – Dunsmuir Middle

Michelle Nahanee – Journey Middle

Edie Charley – Sooke / John Muir Elem.

Sherri Rose – Saseenos/Poirier Elem.

Murielle Lagace – Ruth King Elem. / Sooke FDK Elder Project

Deb Meir – David Cameron / John Stubbs

Laurie Gibson – Crystal View/ Lakewood / Sangster

Sharon Bond – Happy Valley Elem.

Gina Elliott – Savory/ Millstream/Wishart/Colwood Elem.

Sharlene Rogers – Willway/ Hans Helgesen Elem.

Greg Piche – Metchosin Technical Centre/Westshore Annex

Pam Jones – Port Renfrew Elementary

Lavina Charles – SD62 Aboriginal Language

Shirley Alphonse – SD 62 Aboriginal Language

District Office

Kathleen King-Hunt – District Principal

Earleen Covey – Secretary

Our Website

www.sd62.bc.ca/ aboriginal education (look forward to updates in 2011)



Early Learning & Elementary News

Journeys of the Heart

The Journeys of the Heart Program is now accepting new participants for the 2010/2011 school year.

As Aboriginal families, we believe that it takes a whole community to raise a child.

The Journeys of the Heart program helps families to build and strengthen their child's foundation. The staff of the Journeys of the Heart program work with the child and their families (at least one adult) to determine their child's individual learning styles to help make learning fun.

We believe that a child's identity is very important to their self-esteem. We believe that children who have a firm sense of identity do better in school. Cultural identity is a key part of the Journeys of the Heart curriculum.

Let's work together and celebrate our Indigenous heritage while building our children's self esteem and knowledge base so that they may enjoy their lifelong learning experiences.

The program is free. We run Mondays and Wednesdays for a morning program 9:00 to 11:30am and an afternoon program from 1:00 to 3:30pm and siblings are welcome.

We are ready, we just need you.

To find out more about our program or to register please contact:

Julia Clifton
(Early Childhood Educator)

#250 384 9466 Ext: 250

JClifton@hulitan.ca

Outreach StrongStart

Strong Start is a free program where children aged 0-5, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, can participate in organized sessions which include play activities, circle time, snack time, and activities that help develop gross motor skills.

A Place to Play— Beecher Bay Strong Start is every Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Beecher Bay "A Place to Play"

4901B East Sooke Rd
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0
Tuesday & Thursday
8:45 – 11:45

Port Renfrew Elementary - Strong Start

6633 Deering Rd,
Port Renfrew, BC V0S
1K0

Phone: 250-647-5577
Wednesday & Friday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ready, Set, Learn 2011 Events

February 2, 2011

Location: SeaParc, Sooke

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**All welcome for early
learning activities!**

Location: Westshore Mall, Langford

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

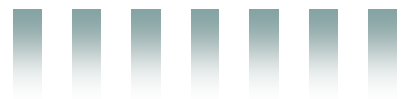
**All welcome for early
learning activities!**

B.E.A.R.

Westshore Rotary reads
at Hans Helgesen and A
Place to Play weekly.

A new community library
will be unveiled in 2011!

Thanks to Westshore Rotary for the volunteering and generous donations to Scia'new library.



Thanks to Victoria Literacy for donating home reading books for B.E.A.R.

Thanks to Sooke Literacy for books for Pacheedaht Band Office 'new' library.

Elementary News

David Cameron and John Stubbs

David Cameron School has been busy and very productive. We have all settled in and gotten into our daily routines.

The First Nations room has been busy with Culture time on Mondays and Thursdays at lunch. Something new to me and I find very exciting is, the Literature Study Circle. It has been great to be a part of L.S.C and to have wonderful discussion groups with the students. After the holidays I look forward to more Cultural activities and more time in the Literature Study Circle. Also we are hoping to have some guests come in and share their knowledge and talents with the students. For this being my first year here I have quite enjoyed the school, all the staff and all the wonderful students. That's all for now at David Cameron.

John Stubbs School is new to me so it has been quite busy, getting to know the students, staff and learning to get around the school. The First Nations room has Culture time on Fridays at noon, the students love to participate and bring their friends to join in. Ms. Cullen's class got a "Little Bear's Vision Quest" story and art presentation that went really well. The students learned about respect, wisdom and honor. They really enjoyed the book and liked doing the art. We also had Howard LaFortune come in to Mr. Royle's woodwork class and give a carving demonstration. He also shared with the students his awesome talent and knowledge. We look forward to having Howard come in and share more with the students after the holidays. That's all for now at John Stubbs. With Respect,
Debbie Meir

Poem by Jordan H.

I will place in my box
The shiniest black and yellow soccer ball

A soccer jersey with a wolf on it
and a pair of my first soccer boots

I will place in my box
an apron with sequins on it
a head piece made of cedar and
the biggest big house

I will place in my box
a pair of my first baby shoes
my first baby blanket
and a picture of me taking my
first steps

I will place in my box
The wildest animals from the forest
the biggest tree
and the prettiest unicorn

My box is made of wood
with the finest wolf design on it
and it has black and red colors on
it.

Congratulations Jordan!!

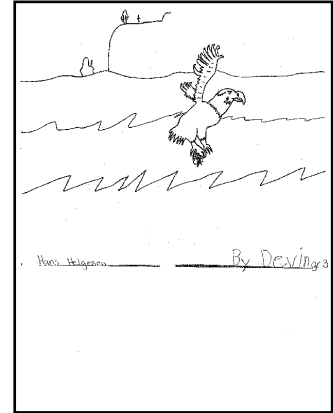
Jordan H, a Grade 6 student, at David Cameron, is going to have her poem published in the Poetry Institute of Canada's anthology of verse entitled Island Mist. It will be released January 2011!!!

Visit:

[http://
www.poetryinstitute.shawbiz.
ca/htdocs/OpenAges/
Winners/ISLAND%20MIST-
winners.pdf](http://www.poetryinstitute.shawbiz.ca/htdocs/OpenAges/Winner/ISLAND%20MIST-winners.pdf)

Hans Helgesen/Willway

Sharlene Rogers is having lots of fun getting to know the students at Hans Helgesen. The staff are welcoming. We are doing some Aboriginal art in the school. As well some students and Miss Rogers are learning the Halq'emeylem language.



Sharlene Rogers is enjoying helping out in the classrooms as well as instructing Aboriginal art in the classes. Students and staff are enjoying the Art lessons as well!

Happy Valley

The Grade four enjoyed a visit from Leslie McGarry from Victoria Native Friendship Center. They enjoyed the Box of Treasures workshops which will include a visit to the Royal British Columbia Museum to visit the First Peoples Exhibits. All students at our school are invited on Tuesdays at lunch hour to enjoy First Nations Crafts, and activities.

Happy Valley students are also preparing for their Christmas Concert. Sharon Bond

*Our logo was
designed by
Rande Cook!*



Aboriginal Education Department will be fund-raising this year with the sale of hoodies and t-shirts featuring the departments logo. We hope to have the first sale items available by the end of January.

We will keep you posted with flyers!

Elementary News

John Muir and Sooke

We had a busy start to the school year at John Muir! We would like to welcome our full day kindergartens. They are all settling in nicely.

Congratulations to Taylor F and Huntry B for getting their poems published in the Duck Soup for the Aboriginal Soul. They were presented at a school assembly.

We are looking forward to having the T'zinquaw dancers coming to our school December 13th.

We would like to wish everyone a nice winter holiday,

Edie Charley and Patti Christianson

Sooke has started off the year running! We would like to welcome our new students.

Sooke has been busy with the hallways getting painted and also construction for the new playground. We also just finished having a great book fair.

The school is gearing up for our Christmas concert. We would like to wish everyone a nice winter holiday.

Edie Charley and Patti Christianson

Poirier

A flood on the weekend of November 28/29th from a broken pipe has caused some rearrangement of students and staff at Poirier. Mrs. Ridewood's class and Mme. Campbell's class have been moved to other rooms. Workers were in all weekend and they will continue until Poirier is put back together

again. At this time they are still assessing the water damage and the principal will keep students and families informed as information is received. Thank – you's were extended to the Sooke Volunteer Fire Department, District Employees and especially Amber and Sean Poirier custodians, as well Mrs. Ridewood and Mme. Campbell for working during the weekend to get their classes ready for Monday.

District Employees and Down's Restoration Company have been opening up walls to allow them to dry out. Everyone has been working to keep the disruption to a minimum for students. Dehumidifiers will be turned on at night and will be shut off each morning, and hand tools are being used to lessen noise and dust. If you have any questions please email or phone the school.

Sherri Rose

Ruth King

News from Ruth King: 17 days until Christmas break, but who's counting? The year is just flying by. We have a Christmas Concert on Dec. 9th. The children have been practicing and are excited. We have been piloting this new reading program where the students read for 1 minute and track how many words they read. This is a big hit, as the children can watch their progress. We also have Guided Reading and CSI reading groups which occur every day after recess. Here the children are motivated to expand their reading experiences in many ways other than simply reading words. We just had a great lesson on Weather, using the newspaper weather page and

answering questions which were previously made up. The students also drew pictures that will be submitted to the newspaper and may even appear in the newspaper. I have over 50 First Nations students here and do my best to get to them all in whatever capacity is needed. I have such fondness for them all. In the new year I plan to hold an all girls grade 5&6 circle at lunch time as well as start up Culture Club which is open to everyone. We also have Dreamcatchers to make with the kindergarten and grade 1 classes. One of the moms and her sister will come and assist. If any parent or parents have a way they would like to share a gift of theirs, please let me know. Also I invite any of the parents/guardians to come to see me. I am in the Resource room right next to the office. I am at Ruth King every day except Thursday. If I am not there feel free to drop me a note on the chalk board and I will contact you as soon as I can. Murielle Lagace

FDK Elder Project

Thursdays I co-facilitate in the Elders' Program with Shirley Alphonse (T'Souke Elder. We are teaching all the kindergarten children at 3 Sooke elementary schools "Sencoten" (one of the Coast Salish languages.) Those young ones are just soaking it up. It is an honor to witness their hunger for knowledge. Have a wonderful festive season and see you next year. Murielle Lagace

Elementary & Middle School News

Port Renfrew

It has been an eventful time for the students of Port Renfrew Elementary over the last three months! From recent snowy walks down at the beach, spending quality time on their reading and writing, taking part in the Pacheedaht fishing on the river, or doing scrapbooking with Ms. Healy (our speech and language pathologist), the students of Port Renfrew have been busy.

There have been many highlights. For instance, through writing, many interactive games, and stories, the kids are having a lot of fun learning the traditional local Diti-daht language, this is awesome to see! Students have also been working very hard on their Strong Reader Tools- important rules to remember during reading in order to enhance and help with reading comprehension. As a class or in groups, we look at Aboriginal theme books and use these Strong Reader Tools to display comprehension and understanding.

In addition, the students have completed amazing wooden killer whales which will soon be displayed at the school. One of our Parents discussed and showed the kids local Pacheedaht designs which they could implement into their whales as well. It was great to see what the kids already knew!!

Our primary students have also been having the opportunity once a week to come to the Pacheedaht Band office to read to the daycare children as well as family, friends, and relatives. The kids look for-

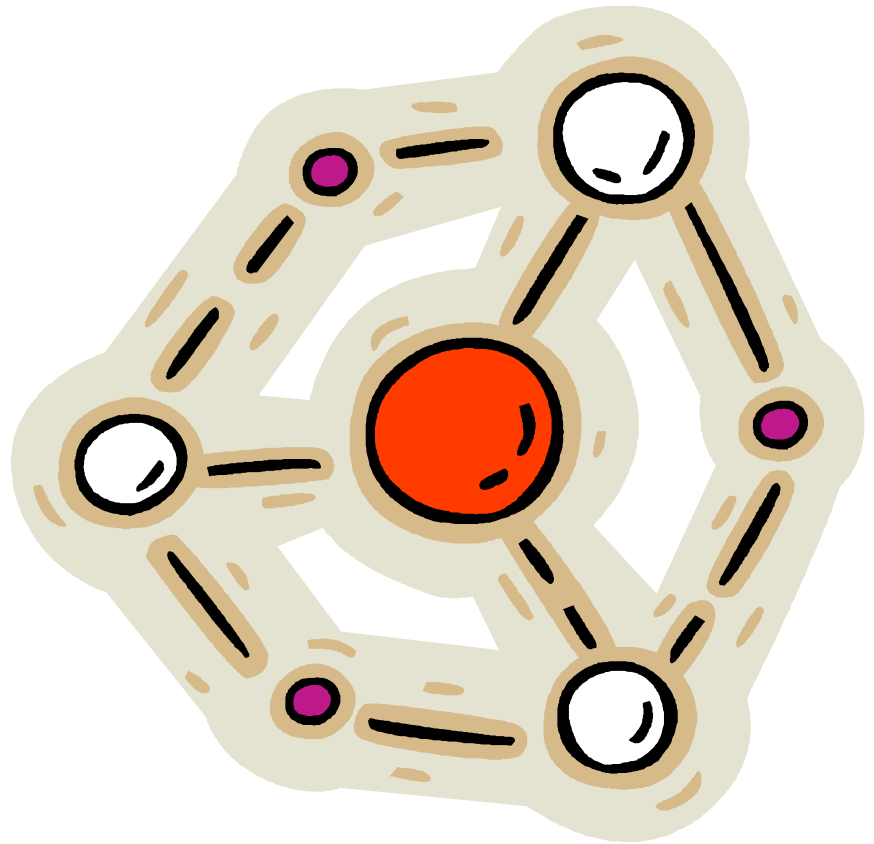
ward to reading to their community every week!

We have been having some great field trips as well, for example with the help of the Queen Alexandra Foundation, the kids have again recently gone to the spooky and fun wonders of Galey's Farm in Saanich where they enjoyed the corn maze and found their own pumpkins in the pumpkin patch- a lot of fall fun!! This term many students and parents also took part in the "Family Fall Gathering"; it was a great Pacheedaht community turnout!! We hope the turnout will be just as big for our upcoming Christmas pot luck Luncheon, hope to see you there!!
Happy Holidays,
Mr. May

Saseenos

Mrs. Haddad Grade 4/5 informed Sherri Rose (Aboriginal Education Support Worker) that two of her students have made great strides since the beginning of the school year at Saseenos. One student a young man has been more focused and independent on his work, he's making friends and socializing more with his peers. Another student aced his science test and is incredibly creative in art.

Sherri Rose



Middle School News

Journey

It has been a very busy and exciting time here at Journey Middle School. We started out the year with a bang by doing a communal button blanket in our exploratory. In the button blanket the children did out lines of their hands and are putting words that mean something to them. They chose words such as love honor respect. Another very exciting event that Ms Christianson and I are gearing up for is our third annual Ye Olde Christmas Shoppe. This is a wonderful opportunity in which the children can buy presents for their family members for loonies and quarters! It is such an exciting time in our room and here at Journey.

In Good Spirit
Michelle Nahanee and Ms
Christianson

Dunsmuir

I would like to congratulate all the students for a great start to the year. We/they have been working hard on academics and working on some fun art projects. Getting to know each and every one of the students has been fun and I hope to meet more parents as the year continues.

Tania Fetherston

Spencer

Hello, Spencer Aboriginal Families!

In October and November, we had two well-attended lunches in the All Nations Room. Mrs. Shirley Alphonse was a guest speaker at the first lunch. The staff and students really enjoyed Mrs. Alphonse's company. During the second lunch Mr. John Lyall, a Vice-Principal, handed out first term Certificates for *Consistent Effort*.

Here is the list of students awarded certificates:

Grade 7 - Quiton Dubois, Shantay Keddy, Ren Louie, Taylor Mckenna, Shae-Lynn Neveu, Kia Sheaves, Kai-Leigh Wyborn.

Grade 8 - Jackson Banman, Nathaniel Best, Chelsea Gladstone, Jessica Gladstone, Savannah John, Shaylene Keddy, Emmah Langer, Michael Lockyer, Jacob Moriarty-Gage, Jason Provencher.

Grade 9 - Tawnie Alfred, Shantel Barrett, Tara Hill, Kathryn McCoy, Sarah Semenoff, Travis Wilson.

Spencer's Green Team of approximately 40 students, half of them are Aboriginal, are performing an excellent service by organizing the recycling for the entire school. This is not the easiest of jobs. A very worthwhile activity, way to go Green Team!

We hope everyone has a joyous holiday Season!

Dennis Warbrick and Helen Wood

ESD

We are the two itinerant ESD teachers covering most of the elementary and middle schools this year. This fall we had Terri Mack down from Nanaimo to give a workshop on "Strong Reader Tools". Here are some of her strategies that you can use when you read with your children at home. *Continued on page 13*



Technical & Secondary School News

Hello to all from Pacific MTC (Metchosin Technical Center)

"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember, involve me and I'll understand." -Chinese proverb

This quote embraces the work that the staff at MTC have been undertaking this fall. We are well aware that the curriculum that we are sharing with our students is only part of the challenge in teaching. We are working toward educating the entire student; that is, helping our students discover their academic, physical, and emotional potential as well as giving them a sense of belonging.

We have the pleasure of working with a multitude of students from across the entire Sooke school district. This can be challenging for the grade 9 Bridges to your future class as for some this is their first time coming to a school with a mix of new students from different areas. This far they have all done an outstanding job creating new friendships, and learning to trust one another working together as a team. Some of the highlights so far are: media arts, Hatching chicks (science class) and inspiring neighbors. (Working with our "little buddies" from Hans Helgeson elementary school), visits with the students from Pearson College. (Comparing the different lifestyles of students from Iraq, Germany, and Trinidad & Tobago with our own, letters to the editor of Metchosin Muse (our local newspaper) ABL (adventure based learning) at the Boys & Girls club, canoeing and climbing low ropes course.

For the returning Grade 10 Gateway to Trades class (they were grade 9's last year...my how they grew over the summer!) the start of the year has been great. It did take a little time to get things rolling but we are well on our way to a productive year. For The grade 10's this year means more carpentry. So far each student has built their own saw horse, framed and set up three new sheds including roofing and siding. We hope to build more in the coming months. We are just starting to learn about electrical and plumbing, and we have a building mock-up in our shop to practice this on. Feel free to stop by and check our work. We also have the usual academic learning too it's not all hammers and saws. In science we have studied ecosystems and nature's cycles. In Planning 10 class we had the folks from Junior Achievement come in and we are creating a career portfolio for future use in gaining employment. In social studies we have been exploring Canada, its geological make-up and different climates, and now the start of confederation.

All of the students have had guest speakers like Constable Channin from the West Shore RCMP and Project Respect came for two workshops on sexual boundaries and violence. We had a "Fall Feast" at Metchosin Community House where the grade 9's cooked for the grade 10's. We hope to have another feast when the grade 10's will cook for the grade 9's.

For me the greatest thing was being able to share my arrow head collection. This has been passed down to me from my late uncle. These arrow heads were all collected from his land in southern Saskatchewan (where I am from). I was interesting to see the faces of the students when they were told they were holding something that was made over a thousand years ago.

Well I could go on for pages I am sure. It is a pleasure to work with the builders / leaders of our future and I hope to have you visit us here at MTC. Talk to you soon and enjoy this winter.

Respectfully, Greg Piche, MTC

Secondary School News

EMCS

Hello everyone, greetings from EMCS, we hope that you have all had an amazing fall and made it through the early snow. Edward Milne Community School continues to be a happening place, with a lot of positive energy and focus. In October we had a guest speaker, Stephen Sxwithul/Txw come and speak to our Aboriginal students about careers through the Vancouver Island Health Authority. The students were engaged and appreciative of the journey that Stephen has made toward his own success. During our Remembrance Day assembly we were fortunate enough to have one of our Aboriginal students stand in front of his entire student body and read a speech that he wrote in honour of his father, who is in the Armed Forces:

Remembrance Day, what does it make you remember? Remembrance Day is a day to remember the people and the sacrifices they made so we can have what we have today. Freedom. The freedom to play video games, go outside and hang out, and even to go to school. I remember and think about the sacrifices my father made to give me what I take for granted everyday. Even the freedom to talk to all of you is something we would not have had if my father and thousands of other soldiers had not gone to defend our freedom. I had relatives who have fought in World War One, World War Two and Afghanistan. In the battles of Dieppe, Somme and Vimy Ridge. My father was a peacekeeper in Bosnia and Afghanistan, the frontlines of some of the most hostile and dangerous places on Earth. It is an experience no-one wishes to go through, seeing comrades, friends, even family die in front of you. Video

fear, shock and anxiety. What if he didn't come home? What if he came home in a metal coffin with a Canadian flag draped over it? What would happen then? It was a worry of fear, love and respect. It is not an experience I would ever like to repeat. You would not believe how relieved and overjoyed I was to see my father walk off of that plane.

Remembrance Day is a day to remember, to respect. During the ceremony we do not clap, out of respect. We do not joke, laugh or speak out, out of respect. So I ask you again to remember and respect, and think about why we remember.

Drew Sherlow

Please feel free to contact either Trish McNabb or myself Kathy Sudlow if you have any concerns regarding your child here at school.



Belmont

Lorraine Erickson and Lynn Ferguson are with Norma-Jean Johnson in the All Nations Room at Belmont.

It's been a busy few months since September. We are still getting to know everyone. Courses have been shuffled and everyone is getting down to business.

The BC First Nations Studies class had a wonderful time at the Royal BC Museum, thanks to Leslie McGarry. (Below: The class working on a medicine bag in a room at the museum.) What a wealth of information Leslie shared with us!

Greg at Metchosin will, hopefully, be making some paddles for the students to paint and hang on the walls in our All Nations Room. A BIG Thank you to Greg and Metchosin Tech.

Norma-Jean has started her maternity leave but will be back next year. Everyone misses her and are patiently waiting for baby to arrive. We even have a contest to see which student comes closest to the date and time of baby's arrival.

Christmas is just around the corner and the elves have been watching to see who's naughty or nice. Personally, I haven't seen anything or anyone naughty so far this term.

We would like to thank each one for their patience while we fine-tune our schedules. Everyone here at Belmont has been terrific and welcoming to us newbies. Hope everyone has a great holiday.



Secondary School News & Recognition Ceremony

First Nations Graduation Program

We are off to a great start this year we are running the English First Peoples 10, 11, and 12 and the students are loving it! We are reading poetry, short stories, plays and novels all by First Nations authors. Our most recent novel "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" we listened to the author Sherman Alexie read his novel as we followed along in our books, this is just one of the ways we are following the oral tradition of storytelling in our class. The novel was so successful that some of our students brought it home to read to their families. If your son or daughter did not bring it home and you want to read it or listen to it you can take it out at the Victoria Public Library. Sherman Alexie wrote the movie "Smoke Signals" and it is a play that we read in English First Peoples 12 instead of Shakespeare. Other cultural things we have done so far this year are making "Cedar Baskets" with Kathy Edgars in Art 11/12, it was a wonderful 2 day workshop that the student's thoroughly enjoyed. Working with the Cedar really took us back to our roots of working with materials that come directly from nature, and to make something useful that our ancestors used to keep food in. Kathy is a wealth of knowledge and a wonderful teacher, I hope you are all able to have her come to your class. Things we are looking forward to in the New Year are that we will be having Leslie McGarry from the Victoria Native Friendship Centre presenting her "Box of Treasures" to my First Nations 12

New Year, from our class to yours.

Loni Skelton and FNGP Students.

Year End Recognition Ceremony

Each year the Aboriginal Education Department hosts a graduate recognition ceremony. Last year's event was held at EMCS, Wednesday, May 26, 2010 starting at 5 p.m. Forty-eight grads officially completed the secondary program spring 2010. Most were present for a evening of acknowledgement and presentations by the community, schools and Aboriginal Education Department. The keynote speaker addressing the graduates for past accomplishments, future wishes, and cultural insights was UVIC Dr. Taiaiake Alfred. School officials, Chief Gordon Planes, Chief Russell Chipps, and Bruce Dumont, Métis Nation British Columbia spoke to the graduates and families. Students were acknowledged from Belmont Secondary, Edward Milne Community School, EMCS, Westshore Centre for Learning & Training, Aboriginal Grad Program, and Pacific Secondary School. The highlight was watching each graduate receive acknowledgements from each school!



Thanks to the many organizations that contributed to the event:

- Ascent Electrical Contracting
- Spencer Middle School
- Métis Nation of Greater Victoria
- SD No. 62, Dry Grad Fund
- T'Sou-ke Nation
- Pacheedaht Nation
- Scia'new Nation
- Starbucks
- UVIC
- Camosun
- Westshore Rotary
- Westshore Barber Shop
- Hatley Subway
- Great Canadian Oil Change
- Travis Henry
- Boston Pizza
- Fairway Market
- House of Nutrition
- Walmart
- Chocolat Au Lait Caffé
- Little Caesars Pizza (Hatley)
- Rachael (Belmont Hair)
- Individual contributions
- Aboriginal Education Department and Recognition Grad Committee

There may be a few donators not listed. We do the best to collect organization names and individuals that donate to our recognition ceremony. If you are not listed we would like to acknowledge your contribution as it is appreciated by all!

Strong Reader Tools

When I look at the cover of my book, my brain searches for information about....

What I know for sure....
What it reminds me of...
What I wonder....
What I can now predict the book is going to be about...

As I'm reading my book....

I can stop reading when my brain says, "Hey! That didn't make sense when"...
I can search my brain for information that isn't in the book, this will help me to understand the book better....
I can say what the most important pieces of information are...
I can make pictures in my brain or see a movie of the book in my brain...

After I've finished reading my book...

I can now say how my thinking has changed from my prediction *and* I can retell the book...

Enjoy sharing a book with your children.
Jane Beswick/Samantha Harvey

Schools

Visit the District
Resource Centre
for numerous
Aboriginal titles to
use for the class-
room teaching

B

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O

K

M

A

R

K

Strong Reader Tools

When I look at the cover of my book, my brain searches for information about...

1. What I know for sure...

2. What it reminds me of...

3. What I wonder...

4. What I can now predict the book is going to be about...

As I'm reading my book...

5. I can stop reading when my brain says, "Hey! That didn't make sense when"...

6. I can search my brain for information that isn't in the book, this will help me to understand the book better...

7. I can say what the most important pieces of information are...

8. I can make pictures in my brain or see a movie of the book in my brain...

After I've finished reading my book...

9. I can now say how my thinking has changed from my prediction *and* I can retell the book...



Upcoming Events

Celebrating Student Success

SD62 Aboriginal Education
event!

*Featuring Me to We—Sacred Circle
and youth leadership*

Date: February 23, 2011

Location: Journey Middle

Time: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

All Welcome!

T'Sou-ke Nation Community Event

T'Sou-ke Multidisciplinary Arts
Festival

Date: Feb. 26, 2011

Location: EMCS

Time: TBA

More info to follow! Ministry of
Community, Sport, and Cultural
Development/Assembly of BC
Arts Council

Métis Nation of Greater Victoria

Monthly Potluck at
Victoria Native Friend-
ship Centre

Date: Third Wed. of each
month or January 19,
2011

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Best wishes to...

- Catrina Snook and family on maternity leave!
- Kristy Green and family on maternity leave!
- Norma-Jean May and family on maternity leave!
 - Caren Porter on family leave!
 - Karen Whetung—we miss you!

Student Acknowledgements

Timmy Card Winner!!!

Crystal R. from Belmont Secondary, won the cup and gift card for the closest guess Norma-Jean's baby boy Hudson's weight!! She looooooooooooooves Tim Horton's hot chocolate!!!! Lynn Ferguson

School Swim Program 2011

January 10th - February 28th

Mondays 4-4:45pm at SEAPARC pool
Grades 2-6

A great, affordable introduction to competitive swimming
in a safe, fun environment centered around learning. All
participants are invited to attend the Annual Victoria
Elementary School Swim Meet!

Register by contacting SEAPARC at (250)
642-8000

www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/

*In partnership with the COHO Swim
Club*

www.islandswimming.com



Thanks to the Aboriginal Education Staff for the newsletter submissions!

A few new staff and schools will be featured in our Spring/Summer Newsletter!

Fall & Winter Edition

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Submissions

If you would like to submit artwork or poems to the Aboriginal Education Newsletter please forward your submissions to ecovey@sd62.bc.ca

Earleen Covey (Aboriginal Education Department Secretary)

Website

[www.sd62.bc.ca/ aboriginal education](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/aboriginal%20education)
Check out our latest updates to our website.



Cut the coupon below – return to your school office to send to Kathleen King-Hunt at the SBO.



Yes, I have read this newsletter with my family!

Return this coupon to win family books from Aboriginal Education Department. One coupon per family is fine.

A book prize will be forwarded to your school by _____!

Name(s):

School:

Grade:

Return this coupon to your school's office to be forwarded to the SD62 School Board Office.

Attention: Kathleen King-Hunt, District Principal Aboriginal Education

Photo page

